

CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting Notes for March 30, 2000

Roundtable members (or their alternates) and liaisons present:

Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)	Jason Peltier (CVPWA)
Amy Fowler (SCVWD)	Doug Wallace (EBMUD)
Bill Gaines (CWA)	Tom Zuckerman (CDWA)
Greg Gartrell (CCWD) via phone	
Walt Hoye (MWD)	Patrick Leonard (FWS)
Michael Jackson for John Mills (RCRC)	Susan Ramos (BOR)
Dan Keppen (NCWA)	Carolyn Yale (EPA)

Restoration Coordinator's Update

CALFED ERP staff would like to conduct an informational phone survey of CALFED projects funded to date. Staff will work closely with the current contract managers. The purpose of this informational exercise is to get up-to-date project information.

In 1999, money was set aside to continue discussions on the Yuba Tools proposal. Commitment was needed from a number of parties to come to agreement on the scope of this proposal. That commitment has not been secured from all the necessary entities and the Roundtable will be briefed on this project at its May 17th meeting.

The 2001 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) has been released. The objective of the PSP is to solicit and fund actions that implement the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, Strategic Plan, Multi Species Conservation Strategy, and to solicit actions that may be funded through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). A Pre-Submittal workshop was held in the Resources Building Auditorium from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on April 12, 2000. Proposals are due May 15, 2000.

Discussion of Revised Policy for Use of Restoration Reserve Fund and Modification of the Amendment Process

Staff identified a need to clarify existing policies for use of the Restoration Reserve Fund. As drafted currently, the Restoration Reserve purpose is to primarily fund project amendments. To date, it has not been used for that purpose since other unallocated funds have been available to cover project amendments. A secondary purpose of the reserve fund is to fund emergency or time-sensitive projects. The process for this has not yet been developed. Members of the Roundtable were concerned about this avenue for funding projects stressing a need for stringent criteria and a clear process for public involvement. Concern was also expressed about the reserve percentage (3%-5%) being too low to actually cover amendments as projects move forward. It was decided that this topic be further discussed at an Issues Subcommittee meeting.

Briefing on ERP Focus Group

The Focus Group was convened in October to deal with key policy issues to be resolved prior to the CALFED EIS/EIS Record of Decision for the Ecosystem Restoration Program. The Focus Group is addressing 1) program integration, 2) priority setting and adaptive management and 3) revision of ERP objectives. Program integration refers to the relationship between the ERP and Multi-species Conservation Strategy and the need to work from "one blueprint". One suggestion was to take an issue, such as the delta smelt incident of last year, and show how all the moving parts fit together.

Environmental Water Program

A Solicitation of Interest for environmental water acquisition will not be released prior to the Record of Decision. Concerns were expressed about the draft Solicitation of Interest developed for review. Comments were that it was too vague and may cause concern in the communities, and that interest would not be gained until the CALFED program is in place. A set of priorities would also be useful to include in the document. CALFED and CVPIA are now developing a work plan and will conduct public scoping meetings. Representatives of the Ecosystem Roundtable were requested to participate on a Steering Committee for development of this program. It was decided to discuss this further at an Issues Subcommittee meeting.

Roundtable members noted that this program should be coordinated and integrated with activities under the Environmental Water Account activities, and that monitoring and development of testable hypotheses will be important to learn the effects of purchases. One member suggested doing pilot projects to start learning how this program will work in the field. The issue of potential third party impacts was also raised.

There was no public comment.